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STATISTICS
OF NURSE-TRAINING SCHOOLS
1930-31

BEING CHAPTER IV OF THE
BIENNIAL SURVEY OF EDUCATION IN THE
UNITED STATES : 1930-1932



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CHAPTER IV

STATISTICS OF NURSE-TRAINING SCHOOLS

1930-31¹

THERE ARE NEARLY twice as many nurses in training now in the United States as there were 11 years ago, according to reports made to the Office of Education by the nurse-training schools for the year 1930-31.

More than 100,000 student nurses were reported enrolled by a total of 1,844 schools. The Office of Education sent inquiry blanks to a total of 1,925 schools listed in the hospital number of the Journal of the American Medical Association and other sources. Statistics on training of nurses were last collected by the Office of Education for the year 1926-27.

SCHOOLS

This report for 1931 includes data for 89 more schools than reported 11 years ago in 1920, and 47 more than in 1927. This represents a 5.1 per cent increase in the 7-year period and 2.7 per cent in the four years from 1927 to 1931. No schools are reported from the State of Nevada. Data are given separately for the 1,778 schools connected with general hospitals and 66 schools maintained by hospitals for the insane. The number of schools reporting at different periods since 1880 is presented in Table 1 and the number of schools by States are given in summary Tables 7 and 8.

TABLE 1.—Comparative statistics of nurse-training schools 1880-1931

Year	Schools	Nurse-pupils	Graduates	Capacity of hospitals (beds)	Average daily number of patients
1	2	3	4	5	6
1880	15	328	167		
1884-85	34	793	218		
1889-90	55	1,552	471		
1894-95	131	3,085	1,498		
1899-1900	433	11,184	3,455	84,227	
1904-05	862	19,324	5,795	145,505	
1909-10	1,128	23,433	6,140	214,597	
1914-15	1,503	46,141	11,118	255,335	155,405
1919-20	1,765	54,933	14,930	321,519	232,823
1926-27	1,797	77,765	18,623	359,077	276,194
1930-31	1,844	100,419	23,971	423,472	325,319

¹ The tabulations for this bulletin were made by Miss Mauda Farr of the Office of Education.

STUDENTS

The 1931 data show 100,419 students in training for the nursing profession, an increase of 45,953, or 82.7 per cent, over the number reported in 1920 and of 29.1 per cent over those studying in this field in 1927. Of the total number of students, only 0.84 per cent are men.

Of the 97,907 students in general hospitals, 575, or 0.59 per cent, were men, but of the 2,512 students connected with hospitals for the insane 273, or 10.87 per cent, were men. Training courses for men nurses were reported by 42 general hospitals and 23 hospitals for the insane.

GRADUATES

There were 25,971 graduates from schools for nurses in 1930-31 of which 524 were trained in hospitals for the care of the insane. Of the 361 men graduates, 300 were from general hospitals and 61 from hospitals for the insane.

LENGTH OF COURSE

The usual length of the nurse-training course in general hospitals is now three years. The increase in the length of course is shown by the fact that in 1927 only 85.6 per cent of the schools reporting had 3-year courses, while in 1931 this percentage was 89.7. Only two schools reported 4-year courses both in 1927 and 1931. Of training schools connected with hospitals for the insane, a smaller percentage reported 3-year courses in 1930 than in 1927. This is due to a decrease in the number of schools of this type.

TABLE 2.—Distribution of nurse-training schools according to length of course offered

Years in course	General hospitals						Hospitals for the insane					
	1920		1927		1931		1920		1927		1931	
	Schools	Per cent	Schools	Per cent	Schools	Per cent	Schools	Per cent	Schools	Per cent	Schools	Per cent
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Less than 1 year.....	26	1.5	14	0.8	24	1.34					1	1.3
1 to 1.9 years.....	18	1.1	17	1.0	11	0.64			1	1.3	2	2.6
2 to 2.9 years.....	179	10.7	215	12.5	145	8.21	23	28.4	9	12.0	11	14.7
3 to 3.9 years.....	1,439	88.5	1,474	85.6	1,595	89.70	64	72.6	65	89.7	59	72.9
4 years or more.....	3	.2	2	.1	2	0.11						
Total.....	1,865		1,722		1,778		87		75		66	

¹ 2 schools did not report the length of course offered.

² 1 school did not report the length of course offered.

EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR ADMISSION TO NURSE-TRAINING COURSES

The educational requirements for admission to nurse-training courses have been steadily rising. Most of the schools connected with general hospitals in 1920 required only one year of high-school work. In 1927 fully one-third required completion of the high-school curriculum, one-third two years of high-school work, and the other third, one year of high-school work. By 1930, however, 87 per cent of the schools connected with general hospitals required the completion of a high-school course. When the question as to the educational requirement for admission was answered by the words "high school," the answer has been interpreted, as in previous years, to mean the completion of a 4-year course.

Of the schools connected with hospitals for the insane, 54 per cent required only one year of high school for entrance in 1920 but in 1930, 64 per cent required completion of a 4-year course for admission.

TABLE 3.—*Distribution of nurse-training schools according to the educational requirements for admission in 1920, 1927, and 1931*

Requirement for admission	1920				1927				1931			
	General hospitals		Hospitals for insane		General hospitals		Hospitals for insane		General hospitals		Hospitals for insane	
	Schools	Per cent	Schools	Per cent	Schools	Per cent	Schools	Per cent	Schools	Per cent	Schools	Per cent
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Elementary school.....	157	9.6	20	22.7	40	2.3	6	8.0	11	0.62	3	4.55
One year of high school.....	694	42.2	48	54.6	551	32.2	48	64.0	41	2.31	9	13.64
Two years of high school.....	355	21.5	4	4.5	533	31.2	15	20.0	108	6.07	5	7.58
Three years of high school.....	7	.4			25	1.5	1	1.3	54	3.04	6	8.09
Complete high school.....	434	26.3	16	18.2	560	32.8	5	6.7	1,547	87.00	42	63.63
Post graduates ¹									17	.95	1	1.51
Total.....	1,647		88		1,709		75		1,778		66	

¹ Previous training in nursing required for these special schools.

MINIMUM AGE REQUIRED FOR ADMISSION

Between 1927 and 1931 there was very little change in the minimum age requirement for admission to nurse-training schools. Practically 90 per cent required the student to have reached the age of 18. Although 25 per cent had set 19 years as the minimum age in 1920, this upper age limit was required by only 6 per cent of the schools in 1930.

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TABLE 4.—Distribution of nurse-training schools according to the minimum age requirements for admission

Minimum age	General hospitals						Hospitals for the insane					
	1920		1927		1931		1920		1927		1931	
	Schools	Per cent	Schools	Per cent	Schools	Per cent	Schools	Per cent	Schools	Per cent	Schools	Per cent
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Will admit under 18 years.....	5	0.3	16	0.9	51	2.88					4	4.0
18 years required.....	1,017	61.0	1,519	84.7	1,590	89.83	65	73.0	70	78.3	80	80.0
19 years required.....	407	24.5	146	8.5	104	5.88	9	10.2	3	4.0		
20 years required.....	147	8.8	20	1.2	17	.96	8	9.1			2	2.0
21 years required.....	85	5.1	11	.7	7	.39	6	6.8	2	2.7		
22 years or over.....	4	.3	1	0	1	.06						
Total.....	1,667		1,712		1,770		88		75		86	

¹ Eight schools did not report on age requirements for admission.

NUMBER OF HOURS OF DUTY REQUIRED DAILY

The number of hours of duty required daily as a part of the nurse-training course in general hospitals has been steadily decreasing for the last 35 years. In 1896 the 8-hour day was in effect in less than 2 per cent of the schools. By 1920 a third had reduced the number of hours of duty to 8, and in 1931 two-thirds of the schools required only 8 hours.

In schools connected with hospitals for the insane, however, about a fourth of the schools require 12 hours' duty and another fourth 10 hours. A little less than a third require only 8 hours on duty.

TABLE 5.—Distribution of nurse-training schools according to number of hours of duty required daily

GENERAL HOSPITALS

Hours of duty	1896		1911		1918		1920		1927		1931	
	Schools	Per cent	Schools	Per cent	Schools	Per cent	Schools	Per cent	Schools	Per cent	Schools	Per cent
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Under 8.....					38	2.4	53	3.2	80	1.7	53	2.8
8.....	2	1.8	69	10.4	232	14.4	559	32.3	954	55.4	1,186	66.70
8½.....	0	0	43	6.5	64	4.0	77	4.6	30	2.3	35	1.97
9.....	11	9.9	639	34.1	434	25.9	474	28.4	369	21.3	303	17.05
9½.....	29	26.3	26	3.9	22	1.4	33	2.0	8	.5	9	.51
10.....	14	12.6	230	33.2	689	42.7	499	29.3	298	17.0	180	10.13
10½.....	82	28.8	0	0	4	.2	1	.1	0	0	0	0
11.....	3	2.7	23	3.3	17	1.1	3	.3	2	.1	0	0
11½.....	14	12.6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
12.....	3	2.7	44	6.6	112	6.9	49	2.9	30	1.7	12	.7
More than 12.....	3	2.7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total.....	111		663		1,613		1,667		1,723		1,778	

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TABLE 5.—Distribution of nurse-training schools according to number of hours of duty required daily—Continued

HOSPITALS FOR THE INSANE

Hours of duty	1918		1920		1927		1931	
	Schools	Per cent	Schools	Per cent	Schools	Per cent	Schools	Per cent
	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Under 8.....	0	0.0	0.1	1.1	1	1.3	0	0.0
8.....	5	6.4	20	22.7	22	29.3	20	20.30
9.....	2	2.6	1	1.1	1	1.3	3	4.55
10.....	5	6.4	5	5.7	9	12.0	9	12.64
11.....	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1.52
12.....	16	20.5	25	28.4	20	26.7	18	22.73
13.....	3	3.8	3	3.4	1	1.3	0	0
14.....	2	2.6	2	2.3	2	2.7	2	3.03
15.....	2	2.6	0	0	0	0	0	0
16.....	18	23.1	22	25.0	14	18.7	16	24.24
More than 12.....	25	32.0	25	30.3	5	6.7	0	0
Total.....	78		68		75		66	

REMUNERATION

The data on the remuneration for nurses in training have been changed to give the pay per month instead of per year since many schools reported data in this way and did not give the number of months in the course. In compiling Table 6 on the monthly allowance basis, data reported by the year were divided by 10, assuming that the course was for 10 months. In training schools in general hospitals 15 per cent of the schools apparently offer no remuneration for services during training in any year of the course. About 45 per cent pay less than \$10 per month during the first year, and more than 40 per cent pay between \$10 and \$15 a month during the second and third years of the course. The remuneration is much higher in schools connected with hospitals for the insane, 48 per cent paying between \$25 and \$50 a month during the first year.

TABLE 6.—Distribution of nurse-training schools according to remuneration allowed, 1930-31

GENERAL HOSPITALS

Year	Number of schools reporting	Schools giving no remuneration		Schools giving less than \$10 per month		Schools giving \$10-\$15 per month		Schools giving \$16-\$25 or more per month	
		Schools	Per cent	Schools	Per cent	Schools	Per cent	Schools	Per cent
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1st year.....	1,770	275	15.54	810	45.76	622	35.14	63	3.56
2nd year.....	1,761	256	14.54	824	46.79	690	39.05	69	3.92
3rd year.....	1,696	251	14.80	877	51.72	627	37.18	121	7.17

8 schools did not report on remuneration.

TABLE 6.—*Distribution of nurse-training schools according to remuneration allowed, 1930-31—Continued*

HOSPITALS FOR THE INSANE

Year	Number of schools reporting	Schools giving \$25 or less per month		Schools giving \$26-\$50 per month		Schools giving \$51-\$75 or more per month	
		Schools	Per cent	Schools	Per cent	Schools	Per cent
	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
First year.....	66	17	25.76	33	48.48	17	25.76
Second year.....	64	28	43.75	14	21.88	22	34.37
Third year.....	60	11	18.33	23	38.67	27	45.00

TABLE 7.—*Summary of statistics of general nurse-training schools, 1930-31*

State or outlying part	Number of schools	Nurse pupils			Graduates
		Men	Women	Total	
1	2	3	4	5	6
Continental United States.....	1,778	575	97,332	97,907	25,440
Alabama.....	35	0	1,132	1,132	26
Arizona.....	3	0	178	178	5
Arkansas.....	23	0	508	508	10
California.....	53	329	4,395	4,724	1,200
Colorado.....	20	5	1,201	1,206	25
Connecticut.....	23	2	1,733	1,735	50
Delaware.....	6	0	219	219	5
District of Columbia.....	11	0	1,111	1,111	20
Florida.....	17	4	641	645	16
Georgia.....	28	25	1,173	1,198	30
Idaho.....	10	0	272	272	6
Illinois.....	127	53	7,233	7,286	1,700
Indiana.....	32	0	2,132	2,132	50
Iowa.....	45	1	2,239	2,240	61
Kansas.....	51	7	1,570	1,577	40
Kentucky.....	31	3	1,063	1,071	25
Louisiana.....	17	0	1,048	1,048	20
Maine.....	30	3	846	849	23
Maryland.....	25	8	1,637	1,635	47
Massachusetts.....	91	39	6,185	6,227	1,580
Michigan.....	45	2	3,572	3,574	90
Minnesota.....	55	0	3,667	3,667	97
Mississippi.....	37	0	667	667	14
Missouri.....	39	0	2,176	2,176	57
Montana.....	16	0	591	591	12
Nebraska.....	19	0	1,212	1,212	27
New Hampshire.....	22	0	729	729	24
New Jersey.....	49	0	3,033	3,033	82
New Mexico.....	2	0	61	61	1
New York.....	139	50	10,972	11,022	3,030
North Carolina.....	58	1	1,634	1,635	38
North Dakota.....	17	0	727	727	18
Ohio.....	77	0	5,330	5,330	1,330
Oklahoma.....	22	0	799	799	18
Oregon.....	13	1	725	726	16
Pennsylvania.....	154	80	9,791	9,811	2,600
Rhode Island.....	9	1	1,188	1,189	30
South Carolina.....	26	0	710	710	20
South Dakota.....	19	1	540	541	15
Tennessee.....	30	12	1,399	1,399	30

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TABLE 7.—Summary of statistics of general nurse-training schools, 1930-31—Con.

State or outlying part	Number of schools	Nurse pupils			Graduates
		Men	Women	Total	
1	2	3	4	5	6
Alaska.....	70	8	2,061	2,069	615
Alaska.....	6	0	441	441	113
Connecticut.....	12	0	358	358	74
Virginia.....	45	0	1,661	1,661	442
Washington.....	27	0	1,525	1,525	398
West Virginia.....	40	0	1,116	1,116	257
Wisconsin.....	26	0	2,481	2,481	511
Wyoming.....	6	0	167	167	35
Philippine Islands.....	7	27	306	393	65
Puerto Rico.....	2	0	90	90	19

TABLE 8.—Summary of statistics of nurse-training schools in hospitals for the insane, 1930-31

State	Number of schools	Nurse pupils			Graduates
		Men	Women	Total	
1	2	3	4	5	6
Continental United States.....	66	273	2,239	2,512	524
Alabama.....	1	0	23	23	3
Connecticut.....	2	0	60	60	12
District of Columbia.....	1	0	72	72	18
Florida.....	1	0	33	33	12
Georgia.....	1	0	37	37	10
Illinois.....	7	3	177	180	27
Iowa.....	1	0	0	0	0
Kansas.....	1	1	14	15	8
Maine.....	2	2	52	54	17
Maryland.....	3	8	125	143	41
Massachusetts.....	11	20	411	441	82
Michigan.....	3	8	94	102	21
Minnesota.....	3	0	100	100	17
New Hampshire.....	1	0	37	37	8
New Jersey.....	3	0	115	115	21
New York.....	14	142	560	702	141
North Carolina.....	1	0	25	25	6
Ohio.....	3	0	59	59	22
Rhode Island.....	5	63	144	207	43
South Carolina.....	2	16	52	68	15

DETAILED STATISTICS FOR EACH INSTITUTION

Since an excellent study giving detailed information for a large number of nurse-training schools has been published by the National League of Nursing Education under date of January 1, 1931, and is available for purchase from the league for \$1.50, the detailed statistics which have been published by the Office of Education in previous years have been omitted. Data for any institution, however, are available from an unpublished table on file in this office.

READERS interested in nursing education may also wish to consult "Nursing," Guidance Leaflet No. 15, published by the Office of Education. This leaflet, especially prepared for the use of guidance advisers in high school and college, reviews briefly the scope of nursing as a profession, qualifications, opportunities, compensation, registration, student expenses, and the services of the professional organizations of nurses. It lists colleges and universities offering nursing degrees and gives references to literature relating to nursing as a career.